



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.3543 | FAX (517) 373.0927

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hammerstrom/

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CONTACT: Amy Zaagman
1-888-477-8238

Hammerstrom Applauds Supplemental Funding for Critical Washtenaw County Road Repairs

May 1, 2003-Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) today announced her support for “Priorities First”, a program that restores funding for key road projects throughout Michigan, including a stretch of I-94 located in Washtenaw County, near the Baker Road exit.

As part of the Governor’s “Preserve First” initiative, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) suspended 34 capacity improvement or Build Michigan III road projects. This initiative takes money from the growth areas of the state and funnels it into less necessary and less critical repairs for Detroit’s roads. Under the “Priorities First!” plan, local communities can continue critical road projects which the Governor has “deferred.” The 34 projects were part of MDOT’s long-term goal of having 90 percent of roads and bridges in good condition by 2007.

“The Governor’s decision to cancel scheduled road projects across the state dismisses all of the work and planning local communities have devoted to repairing their roads,” said Hammerstrom. “The ‘Priorities First’ supplemental funding is necessary to address these critical repairs.”

“Priorities First!” sets a sharp contrast between the Senate plan for the future of Michigan’s economic development and the Governor’s short-sighted, unidentified plan.

“This funding will allow the Washtenaw community to address transportation needs that exist today, therefore, giving them the opportunity to prepare for future economic growth,” Hammerstrom said.

The first of two public hearings was conducted Wednesday, April 30 from 7-9pm at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville.